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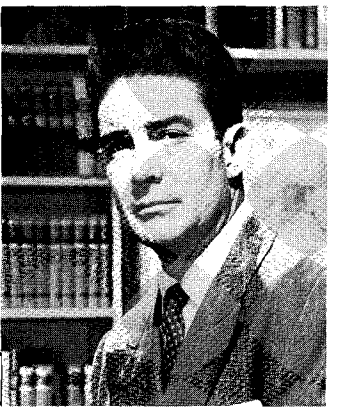

DAN SMOOT

WE PAY FOR COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA

The 1962 Bill to increase postal rates is HR 7927. By voice vote on January 24, 1962, the House of Representatives passed HR 7927, which would raise first-class letter mail rates from 4 cents to 5 cents per ounce, raise airmail rates from 7 cents to 8 cents an ounce, and raise rates for second-class and third-class mail about 16%.[1]

Administration officials had hoped that the Senate would act quickly to approve HR 7927; but four months later the Bill was still in the Senate; and the Administration was exerting pressures on Senators to remove from the Bill a "controversial" amendment which had been added in the House, the day before the House passed the Bill.

The "controversial" Amendment was sponsored by United States Representative Glenn Cunningham (Republican, Nebraska). Mr. Cunningham's Amendment prohibits the Post Office Department from distributing, free of charge, any material which the Attorney General declares to be communist propaganda.

Importance of Communist Propaganda

Communists use mass murder and wholesale liquidation of populations to achieve their goal; but bloody suppression is generally a mopping-up operation which comes *after* propaganda has prepared the way. Propaganda subverts, perverts, confuses, and divides the people of a nation until communists and their stooges hold a balance of power. Then, communists use force to remove opposition and to tighten and secure their death grip.

This program of communist conquest, used all over the world, has enslaved almost one billion people since the end of World War II — in a tier of European states stretching from the Baltic to the Adriatic; in Asia; in Africa; in Latin America.

Already having passed through the mopping-up stage, Cuba is being used as a base for an intensified propaganda offensive against the remainder of Latin America. Communist

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propaganda is tearing apart all established order in Latin America and filling that whole region with hatred of the United States. Unless the trend is reversed, we shall soon see communists moving into the mopping-up stage of their program in nations throughout Latin America: that is, we shall see the Latin American nations going, one by one, the way of Cuba.

Communists are today in the mopping-up stage of their conquest of Laos. They may permit us to "hold the line" against communism in Thailand until they are secure in Laos. Then, they will mount an increased propaganda offensive in Thailand until they are ready to move with armed force in Thailand and/or other portions of Southeast Asia.

Always and everywhere, *propaganda* is the first and foremost weapon of communists in their program of conquest.

It is estimated that in the Soviet Union alone, communists spend about two billion dollars a year producing propaganda materials for worldwide distribution.[2]

The Soviets also have facilities elsewhere for producing such materials. The Soviet Embassy in Mexico City, for example, operates a huge printing plant, producing propaganda materials for distribution primarily in Latin America.[2]

Communist controlled organizations in the United States produce communist literature for distribution. The Soviet Embassy in Washington, in less than three years (September, 1959, to early 1962), paid $240,000 to Crosscurrents Press Inc., 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, for the production of 750,000 books and pamphlets which the Soviet Embassy distributed, mostly in the United States.[3]

In addition to what the Soviets produce, at home and through their diplomatic and front establishments elsewhere, governments in other communist nations produce propaganda materials for distribution around the globe.

If communists spend such great sums *producing* propaganda materials, how much do they spend *distributing* it to organizations and individuals all over the world? No one knows, but we do know that the *victims* of the communist propaganda pay a large portion of the cost of distribution.

To be specific, the American taxpayer has for years been subsidizing the distribution of communist propaganda throughout this hemisphere.

The sole and specific purpose of the Cunningham Amendment to the Postal Bill of 1962 is to relieve American taxpayers of *part* of the burden of paying for the distribution of communist propaganda in the western hemisphere.

Postal Union

Almost a century ago, the United States became a party to the Universal Postal Union: an international agreement (between the governments of many nations) which provides that mail originating in one country, and bearing the proper postage of that country, will be delivered to addressees in a foreign country, without additional charge, by the postal service of that foreign country. The agreement also provides for the handling of *in transit* mail — that is, mail originating in one country and passing through a second country for dispatch to destination in a third country. The mail is *in transit* while passing through the second country. The second country must handle the *in transit* mail free of charge, and must not tamper with it.

The Universal Postal Union agreements must, of course, be reciprocal. A nation handles mail free of charge for another nation only when, and to the extent that, its own mail is handled free by that other nation.

Mail is roughly classified in two groups: open and closed. Open mail consists generally of unsealed packages containing newspapers, books, pamphlets, and comparable materials;

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and it is usually delivered at rates lower than rates on first-class, sealed ("closed") mail.

Closed mail is supposed to be inviolable — that is, delivered to addressee without being opened even for inspection, except in extremely rare and specific instances when narcotics smuggling or comparable criminal activity is strongly indicated.

Contents of open mail packages can be legally removed for inspections, and can, under specified circumstances, be returned to the sending country without delivery to addressee; but even open mail is supposed to be inviolable against censorship or seizure.

The Universal Postal Union system works with reasonable equity among law-abiding nations; but, with communist nations, the agreements are a farce. Communist officials regularly censor, or confiscate, mail coming into communist countries, delivering only that mail which they want delivered.

Moreover, communist governments produce tons of propaganda designed as weapons against the citizens and institutions of foreign nations; and then, under the Universal Postal Union, they send that propaganda to the foreign nations for delivery to the victims, at the expense of the victims.

Communist exploitation of the Universal Postal Union agreements (to make United States taxpayers bear the cost of distributing communist propaganda) became a major threat, and financial burden, to us after World War II.

By 1948, the volume of communist propaganda entering the United States, for free delivery to American citizens and organizations, had reached such proportions that the Department of Justice invoked the provisions of a ten-year-old law (Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938) to stop a part of the flood.

The Department of Justice ruled that (under the Foreign Agents Registration Act) any person or organization in the United States, disseminating communist propaganda from abroad, must label the material as communist propaganda; and the person or organization doing the disseminating must register with the Department of Justice as an agent of a foreign power.

Communists circumvented or ignored these requirements. The Department ruling permitted the distributing organizations themselves to determine what material coming in from abroad was communist propaganda. Naturally, the communists and communist fronts determined that *none* of it was propaganda; and, since, by their own determination, they were not distributing propaganda for a foreign power, they did not register with the Department of Justice as foreign agents.

The 1948 Department of Justice ruling did help, however; and so did the Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950, which also required the labeling of communist propaganda. The Bureau of Customs did not have enough personnel to inspect the millions of pieces of communist propaganda coming into the United States through all 50 ports of entry; but Customs did create a spot-check system in three major ports: New York, New Orleans, and San Francisco.

Customs did not detain, or tamper with, first-class ("closed") mail coming in from communist countries; but the Bureau did stop a great deal of the open mail propaganda at the three major ports.

All of this mail, coming in by the boatloads, is addressed to specific individuals or organizations. When Customs detained such material, the persons to whom it was addressed were notified, and asked whether they wanted it. If the addressees said they wanted it, it was delivered to them, free of charge. If addressees said they did not want the material, it was destroyed or returned to the sending nation. Ninety-nine percent of the persons and organizations thus notified that they were the addressees of mail from the Soviet Union said they did not order the material, did not want

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it, and did not know how officials in Moscow got their addresses.[2]

Most of the unsolicited communist propaganda coming into the United States is addressed to students, educational institutions, and to members of foreign-language groups — many of whom are refugees from communist countries.[2]

Such mail, bearing a Moscow postmark, addressed to a refugee from communism who has found asylum in the United States, has a demoralizing effect. It convinces refugees that the long arm of the Soviet secret police reaches around the world. Many such refugees are in this country illegally, and many still have relatives in communist nations. Using the United States mail, free of charge, the Soviets can blackmail (under threat of exposing their illegal status in the United States, or threat of harm to relatives still in the Soviet Union) refugees into becoming agents for the international communist conspiracy.

What can such reluctant agents do in the United States to help communism? Apparently they — together with the communist party and communist fronts and communist sympathizers — are the ones who compile and send to Moscow mailing lists (running into millions of names) which give the names and specific addresses of students, refugees, and others in the United States.[2]

The effect which communist-socialist propaganda has had on students in American colleges is obvious: how else can you account for the behavior of American students during the 1960 San Francisco riots against hearings by the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities? How else can you account for the large number of American boys and girls who support such major communist objectives as repeal of our immigration laws, abolishing all congressional investigations of communism, recognition of red China, surrendering American military power to a world organization, and so on?

Cultural Exchanges

The practice of spot-checking communist propaganda at major ports of entry, initiated in 1948, did slightly check the floodtide of Soviet hate materials coming into the United States; but the situation remained a major problem. After 1955, it became worse than ever before.

In 1955, Eisenhower went to a summit conference with Soviet dictators at Geneva, and promised to work out an agreement for "cultural exchanges" between the United States and the USSR.

This preposterous "cultural exchange" program was initiated in 1958; and the flow of communist propaganda into the United States began increasing sharply.

Moreover, communists began to buy paperback publishing firms in the United States,[4] and, otherwise, to establish communist propaganda publishing firms here.

Note, for example, the Crosscurrents Press, mentioned previously as the firm which published 750,000 books and pamphlets for the Soviet Embassy in Washington between September, 1959, and early 1962.

Myron E. Sharpe is President of Crosscurrents Press, Inc. When the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities questioned Sharpe, trying to get further details on his business of producing propaganda material for the Soviets, Sharpe invoked the Fifth Amendment more than one hundred times, refusing to answer questions. In a press statement later, however, Sharpe said he began his "publishing business" in 1959 after the United States and the Soviet Union initiated the cultural exchange program.

Volume

The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (under the chairmanship of James O. Eastland, Democrat, Mississippi) and the House Committee on UnAmerican Activities have conducted extensive investigations into

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this problem of our subsidizing, through free use of the mails, the distribution of communist propaganda in the United States.

As early as May, 1957, Senator Eastland proposed a "Bill to deny postal subsidies to communist propaganda by prohibiting the transmission through the mails at less than cost of publications, books, other printed matter, and films containing such propaganda." The Eastland Bill never got out of committee and was virtually ignored by the American press.

The Senate Subcommittee and the House UnAmerican Activities Committee (and, more recently, the Joint Legislative Committee on UnAmerican Activities for the State of Louisiana) have produced statistics from competent witnesses about the staggering volume of communist propaganda circulating in the United States. Perhaps the most graphic picture was given in 1958, by Richard Arens, then Staff Director of the Committee on UnAmerican Activities.

Mr. Arens said the Committee found that the communist party had recently set up 200 organizations in 15 key states for *just one purpose:* to destroy United States immigration laws. Arens said that *one* of those 200 organizations had managed, in *one year:* (1) to publish and distribute more than 5 million pamphlets, 142 memoranda, and 98 leaflets; (2) to sponsor and initiate 62 radio programs, 19 of them on networks with nationally prominent speakers; (3) to provide speakers for 412 meetings of organizations and groups; (4) to provide "research" material for 14 articles in nationally circulated magazines; (5) to feed "research" material to newspaper columnists, editors, and radio commentators; (6) to sponsor 8 national and 27 regional conferences; and (7) to provide witnesses for testimony at 23 hearings before congressional committees. All of this was the accomplishment in *one* year, of *one* organization out of 200, created by the communist party for the *one* purpose of destroying our immigration laws.

Mr. Arens said:

"The communists' greatest success is this tactic of persuading so-called liberals and the public at large that their program is not a communist program, but simply a program for liberalization, for democracy, and for humanity."

Noting the mammoth volume of communist propaganda created *inside* the United States, Mr. Arens decided to check on the volume coming in from abroad. He asked the Customs officer in charge of the Port of New York to hold, for three days, communist propaganda coming into New York City from Iron Curtain countries. Mr. Arens did not ask that the mail be opened or tampered with: just that all of it be held for three days so that he could count it and get some estimate of volume. The Customs official said:

"There would not be enough warehouses on Manhattan Island to hold it."

Richard Arens says:

"I went down there and I raised my hand over my head and walked through three warehouses.

"These warehouses were stacked with mail sacks piled up higher than my hand over my head. This was just one day's processing of communist propaganda coming into the United States, all of it in violation of law."[5]

Remember that these tons of communist propaganda, brought into one United States port in one day from Iron Curtain countries, were put into the United States mail for free distribution to addresses throughout our nation.

The Kennedy Policy

This was the situation in 1958. It grew steadily worse during 1959 and 1960, despite the fact that the spot-checking practice, initiated in 1948, did help.

On March 17, 1961, President Kennedy rescinded the old 1948 order: he told Customs and Postal authorities that they must no longer

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screen or detain any communist propaganda, that it all must be delivered, free of charge, without delay.

On that same day, Pierre Salinger, White House Press Secretary, issued a press release, explaining the President's action. The press release said:

"President John F. Kennedy, following consultation with the Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, the Postmaster General, J. Edward Day, the Secretary of the Treasury, C. Douglas Dillon and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, today ordered discontinuation immediately of the program intercepting communist propaganda from abroad.

"A review by the four departments has disclosed that the program serves no useful intelligence function at the present time.

"Discontinuance of the program was unanimously recommended by an ad hoc committee of the Planning Board of the National Security Council in a report of June 29, 1960. . . .

"Since 1948 varying degrees of control have been exercised by the Bureau of Customs and the Post Office Department concerning the importation of communist political propaganda. Since 1951 the program has been extended to a spot check or censorship of all mail, except first class mail.

"Not only has the intelligence value of the program been found to be of no usefulness, but the program also has been of concern to the Secretary of State in connection with efforts to improve cultural exchanges with communist countries."

That press release issued from the White House could not have served the communist cause better, if it had been written in the Kremlin.

The President says our detaining communist propaganda had served no useful intelligence purpose. Of course not! It was never detained for intelligence purposes: it was detained to save Americans the expense of distribution to Americans who did not want it.

The President's March 17, 1961, order and press release notified all communist governments in the world that they can now multiply the tons of propaganda aimed at our own citizens — and that we will deliver all of it promptly, free of charge.

One important aspect of the communist program, which received support from Kennedy's action, involved the propaganda onslaught against Latin American nations. As previously mentioned, the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City operates a huge printing press, producing propaganda for Latin America. Transportation facilities in Mexico are not adequate to handle the great volume and get it into the mails of other Latin American countries. So, the Soviet propaganda produced in Mexico City is sent by train to New Orleans, where American officials must process it, free of charge (as *in transit* mail under the Universal Postal Union agreements), and dispatch it to its victims throughout the hemisphere.

The President took this action, according to his press release, in the hope that it would improve East-West relations. That, as Representative Glenn Cunningham says, is "stupidity" — or worse.

Current Status

It was Kennedy's action on March 17, 1961, ordering unlimited, free distribution of communist propaganda by the United States Post Office — together with his simultaneous demand that Congress *increase* postal rates for the American people — that spurred a determined drive in Congress to do something about the situation.

United States Representative Glenn Cunningham took the lead. He introduced legislation in 1961, which became Section 12 of HR 7927 in 1962. Section 12 is the "communist-propaganda-ban" portion of the Postal Bill which was passed by the House on January 24, 1962, and which still awaits action in the Senate.

Mr. Cunningham says:

"We come with unclean hands to the American people when we ask them for an

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increase in postal rates unless we stop the free delivery of this communist propaganda to our citizens."[6]

United States Represntative Frank T. Bow (Republican, Ohio) says the United States is the only country in the free world which tries to maintain the farce of a "reciprocal" mail-delivery agreement with the communists. Mr. Bow says:

"No other country in the free world permits Moscow's propaganda to be delivered at the expense of its own taxpayers. Many countries refuse to let such subversive material in under any circumstances. Instead of increasing postage rates at home, why not start on budget-balancing in the Post Office by refusing to distribute this communist propaganda free of charge?"[7]

After the Cunningham Amendment to control communist propaganda became a part of the Postal Bill as passed by the House on January 24, President Kennedy (in a press conference on the same day) indicated that communist nations have been handling our mail, under the international agreements, on a "reciprocal basis."[1] That is obviously not so. It is common knowledge that communists do not deliver even first class mail from the United States, unless (after censorship) they determine it is something they want delivered.[2]

The President in his press conference also said that we send more *pounds* of mail to Iron Curtain countries, for free delivery, than Iron Curtain countries send here.[1]

Postmaster General Day made the same claim on May 5, 1962, at a speech in Chicago Heights, Illinois.[8]

The truth is that the *poundage* of mail going from the United States to Iron Curtain countries is, as Representative Cunningham points out, made up of food packages, clothing, soap, and other necessities, which Americans send to relatives behind the Iron Curtain. The *poundage* of communist mail coming to the United States is 99% propaganda, designed to prepare us for conquest.

What Should Be Done

The American "liberal" press made much noise about the "censorship of the mails" and the violation of "constitutional provisions" which Cunningham's Amendment to the Postal Bill provides. For example, the *New York World-Telegram and Sun*, on January 30,

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1962, published an editorial criticizing the Cunningham Amendment, saying:

"This is a timid and probably unconstitutional plan which, if strictly enforced, simply would deprive the American people of information as to what is going on in large sections of the world — what they are saying about us and planning to do to us.

"The Senate should knock that amendment in the head."

This is either deliberate nonsense or falsehood or both.

The Cunningham Amendment does not ban communist literature from the United States mails: it merely denies a postal subsidy to that small portion of communist propaganda which the Attorney General may designate as communist propaganda.

Americans should demand that the Senate *not* pass HR 7927 *unless* the Cunningham Amendment (Section 12) is left in it intact. But that is not nearly enough. The Cunningham Amendment is much too mild and ineffective.

The Congress should refuse to authorize *any* appropriations for the Post Office Department, the State Department, the Justice Department, or the White House — until the Administration takes effective action to restrict the flow of communist propaganda in the United States.

Effective action is obvious, simple, and constitutional. The President should announce that the United States no longer adheres to the Universal Postal Union agreements with respect to communist countries; that the U. S. Post Office will deliver no mail from any communist country, unless the mail is clearly labeled as coming from that country; and that, even if properly labeled, it will not be delivered unless the sender pays full American postage for it.

Congress should also enact a law prohibiting use of the subsidized mails for distribution of any communist propaganda within the United States — defining communist propaganda as any material produced or distributed by any communist organization or communist front, or communist individual, as determined either by the Attorney General or by a duly authorized committee of Congress.

FOOTNOTES

(1) *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*, January 26, 1962
(2) *Communist Political Propaganda and Use of United States Mails*, Hearings Before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, published March 26, 1959, by the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.; also, *Communist Propaganda Infiltration In Louisiana*, Report No. 2, April 24, 1962, of The Joint Legislative Committee On Un-American Activities, State of Louisiana
(3) Column by Gwen Gibson, *New York Daily News*, May 10, 1962; and Associated Press Story in *New York Times*, May 10, 1962
(4) Testimony of Dr. Robert Morris, before The Joint Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities, State of Louisiana, published in *Communist Propaganda Infiltration In Louisiana*, Report No. 2, April 24, 1962
(5) January 7, 1959, issue of *Looking Ahead*, by Dr. George S. Benson, Director of the National Education Program, Searcy, Arkansas
(6) *Congressional Record*, August 31, 1961
(7) Article in *Christian Economics*, March 21, 1961
(8) Associated Press Story in *The Dallas Morning News*, May 6, 1962

WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Dan Smoot was born in Missouri. Reared in Texas, he attended SMU in Dallas, taking BA and MA degrees from that university in 1938 and 1940.

In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow in English, doing graduate work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the field of American Civilization.

In 1942, he took leave of absence from Harvard in order to join the FBI. At the close of the war, he stayed in the FBI, rather than return to Harvard.

He worked as an FBI Agent in all parts of the nation, handling all kinds of assignments. But for three and a half years, he worked exclusively on communist investigations in the industrial midwest. For two years following that, he was on FBI headquarters staff in Washington, as an Administrative Assistant to J. Edgar Hoover.

After nine and a half years in the FBI, Smoot resigned to help start the Facts Forum movement in Dallas. As the radio and television commentator for Facts Forum, Smoot, for almost four years spoke to a national audience giving both sides of great controversial issues.

In July, 1955, he resigned and started his own independent program, in order to give only one side — the side that uses fundamental American principles as a yardstick for measuring all important issues.

If you believe that Dan Smoot is providing effective tools for those who want to think and talk and write on the side of freedom, you can help immensely by subscribing, and encouraging others to subscribe, to *The Dan Smoot Report*.

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